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Thailand Grain and Feed Weekly Rice Price Update 2005

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Report Highlights:

Export prices were offered slightly lower but prices are expected to surge again next week.

Includes PSD Changes: No Includes Trade Matrix: No Unscheduled Report Bangkok [TH1] [TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending May 3):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations						Period Avg.		
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	440	420	465	445	460	410	420	439	439
WR 100 B	305	305	301	303	305	300	298	302	303
PB 5%	297	298	301	302	301	300	290	298	299
WR 5%	300	300	297	298	299	295	293	297	298
WR 10%	295	292	292	294	296	291	288	293	294
WR 15%	282	287	289	291	286	284	283	286	287
WR 25%	272	275	280	289	270	264	278	275	277
WR 35%	269	271	-	286	266	262	273	271	273
A 1 SUP	226	230	_	226	230	223	220	226	227
A 1 SPEC	224	228	_	225	228	-	218	225	225
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice were offered temporarily lower, as most exporters have enough supplies of rice for this week's delivery which is reportedly less aggressive due to long holidays. However, white rice prices are expected to surge again next week when the market is back to normal. Also, domestic supplies of white rice paddy remain tight, as the Government still holds the intervention stocks of around 3 million tons which is supposed to be released in May.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO	YEAR AGO
ENDING			DATE	
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
MAR 13	88,005	90,391	1,140	1,121
MAR 20	95,458	84,627	1,236	1,265
MAR 27	89,287	86,605	1,325	1,409
APR 3	121,400	98,537	1,446	1,572
APR 10	89,073	98,804	1,536	1,701
APR 17	64,932	91,173	1,600	1,790
APR 24	127,541	100,736	1,728	1,955
MAY 1	118,886	100,108	1,847	2,107

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Apr. 25 – May 1, 2005 totaled 118,886 tons, down 8,654 tons from the previous week's total and up 18,779 tons from the four-week moving average of 100,108 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – May 1, 2005 amounted to 1,846,916 tons, as compared with 2,107,058 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Apr. 18, 2005, amounted to 2,235,358 tons, down 8.6 percent from 2,444,698 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr. 11-15, Apr. 18-22, and Apr. 25-29, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr. 11-15	Apr. 18-22	Apr. 25-29
weekly sales	69,048	130,023	108,558
4 week sum	426,905	428,756	462,323
4 week mov. avg.	106,726	107,189	115,581
Total weekly sales	1,651,568	1,781,591	1,890,149

End of Report.